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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A document management system comprising:

2   (a) an imaging device configured to create an image of a

3 document;

4   (b) a keyword identifier configured to identify at least one

5 keyword in the document image;

6   (c) a document labeler configured to generate a document name

7 from the at least one keyword; and,

8   (d) a storage system configured to store the document image

9 with the document name.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the keyword identifier includes an

2 optical character recognizer configured to recognize characters in the document

3 image.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the keyword identifier includes a

2 word detector configured to detect words from characters recognized in the

3 document image.

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the keyword identifier includes a

2 field locator configured to locate keyword fields in the document image.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage system includes a

2 document storage device.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage system includes a file

2 system.

1   7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the storage system includes a
2   database.

1   8.   A document management method comprising:
2   (a)   creating an image of a document;
3   (b)   identifying at least one keyword in the document image;
4   (c)   generating a document name from the at least one keyword;
5   and,
6   (d)   storing the document image with the document name.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein identifying the at least one
2   keyword includes recognizing characters in the document image.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 wherein identifying the at least one
2   keyword includes detecting words from characters recognized in the document
3   image.

1   11.   The method of claim 8 wherein identifying the at least one
2   keyword includes locating keyword fields in the document image.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein locating keyword fields includes:
2   (a)   detecting a field indicator within the document image; and,
3   (b)   locating the keyword fields relative to the field indicator.

1   13.   The method of claim 11 wherein locating keyword fields includes
2   searching for the keyword fields in a selected location of the document image.

1   14.   The method of claim 8 wherein storing the document image
2   includes storing the document image in a database.

1   15.   A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly
2   embodying a program, applet, or instructions executable by the computer to
3   perform method steps for managing documents, the method steps comprising:

4   (a)   creating an image of a document;

5   (b)   identifying at least one keyword in the document image;

6   (c)   generating a document name from the at least one keyword;

7   and,

8   (d)   storing the document image with the document name.

1   16.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step
2   of identifying the at least one keyword includes recognizing characters in the
3   document image.

1   17.   The program storage device of claim 16 identifying the at least one
2   keyword includes detecting words from characters recognized in the document
3   image.

1   18.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step
2   of identifying the at least one keyword includes locating keyword fields in the
3   document image.

1   19.   The program storage device of claim 18 wherein the method step
2   of locating keyword fields includes:

3   (a)   detecting a field indicator within the document image; and,

4   (b)   locating the keyword fields relative to the field indicator.

1   20.   The program storage device of claim 18 wherein the method step
2   of locating keyword fields includes searching for the keyword fields in a selected
3   location of the document image.